LUCON IVY

The Fourth (Almost) Annual Science Fiction Convention of Leeds University SF Soc.

21st -23rd Feb 1992

GoH : Gwyneth Jones

Guests : Prof Tom Shippey
The Fight School
Dark Horizons
The "Real" Hitch-Hikers' Guide
Charles Stross

Free book by GoH

Free Lazertag

Programme Book

Welcome to LUCON IVY

Intro : LUCON IVY is the fourth con to be held by the Science Fiction Society at Leeds University. The earlier ones were LUCON, LUCONtinued and the imaginative LUCON III. Will there be a LUCONanonanon? Or a Lunicon? Who knows? (Pre-support now!) There is everything that you could want here :

Main Program : This occupies the centre pages and took the most organisation. The guests are all doing things, so at least come along for those. Join a panel and discuss everything under the sun, or :

LRP Programme : There are various pieces to this dotted around. Watch out for the Barroom brawl, the champions contest and the highlight : *The Fight School*. The LRP can run everywhere, even into :

The Bar : The bar is the main centre of attention and gathering of peoples. It will serve cheap drinks and even cheaper drinks on Friday night. Sunday it is closed for cocktails. There is the crowded, noisy Old Bar downstairs, but that is out of the con area. Nearby however is :

Video Room : The video programme will be posted. Lots of *Dr. Who, Star Trek*, a little anime, *The Princess Bride*, etc. Next to the video room is :

The Dealer Room : All sorts of dealers selling and promoting all sorts of things. Take a peek. Dave Hodges is here as well. Way around the corner is :

Committee Rooms A & B : These are for general purpose use by LRP'ers and RPG'ers. Go play a game of something. There will be some organised RPG and boardgames. But for real excitement :

Try Leeds Food : There will be a visit to a curry place on Friday, pizza ordering on Saturday ("23 pizzas and a garlic bread") or just sample any of the takeouts/indians/pizza places on Woodhouse Lane (A660). Health food from Starwberry Fields and snacks from the MJ Lounge in the Union.

The Committee

by **Andrew Adams**

Paul Cooper - Chairman. A second year Astrophysics student who was mugged into running LUCON IVY while drunk at LUCON III. Thrown in at the deep end he has frantically attended conventions all month round in an attempt to find out what is expected of him. Basically, he's got basically the right idea, but still hasn't managed to find a regular minute taker for the weekly committee meetings.

Barry Traish - Publications. An ex-CUSFS committee person who splits his time between running the SF Society, printing LUCON IVY and SFSoc film adverts, avoiding his second year Philosophy course and being run by the *Black Hole* editor. A Prisoner fan who avoids Dr. Who, he has managed to avoid taking the minutes by ignoring the request, and usually the chairman as well. *(And he's devilishly handsome - Ed.)*

Martin Slowey - LRP Organiser. An LRP fan who admits that he is better at running away than at fighting. He splits his time between being Chief (OOOK!) Librarian for the SFSoc, avoiding his full timetable as a second year Mineral Engineer and helping to run the LRP and RPG Socs. He has taken the minutes only once since no one can read his writing.

Jon Crowe - Committee Member Without Portfolio. A weirdo who left his hat in Holland. He seems more like a Genetics Dept. experiment than one of their final year students. He used to be the secretary but was demoted due to his habit of avoiding taking the minutes (technically his job) by avoiding meetings.

Ruth Bates - LRP Organiser. The only woman on the committee, she nevertheless manages to hold her own by waving a rubber sword around. No one has asked her to take the minutes yet because she is never around to take the first few minutes of the minutes.

Adrian Rankin - Treasurer. The man with the cash. He is a ST:NG fan and a postgrad Chemist who needs a haircut. He won't be at the con on Saturday or Sunday, but don't worry he hasn't run off with the cash, he has just gone tenpin bowling. He avoids the minutes by never being abe to stay for the full meeting.

Jamie Holder - Guest Liason. After his recent fight with a lawnmower, this final year Astrophysicist no longer looks like Tom Baker, so he watches ST:NG to console himself. His job involves dealing with the guests, making him the only one of the committee hoping for a repeat of last year's weather. He has avoided the minutes by the simple expedient of never being there.

Stephen Parkinson - Programme Coordinator. Yet another ST:NG fan who was almost left off the list because he so rarely says anything at meetings (well, nothing memorable anyway). He spends his time away from the video recorder arranging films for the SFSoc making us lots of money (which he then loses on the next film he shows). He often takes the minutes because his a mug. *(Too cruel - Ed.)*

Andrew A. Adams - The Official Voice of Doom and Gloom. Refused to write his own bio, apart from saying that he is not a committee member and that the OVoDaG is officially exempt from taking the minutes.

The Committee Jabbered

Paul Cooper	becomes	pall cooper
Barry Traish	becomes	carry trains
Martin Slowey	becomes	Martin slowed
Jon Crowe	becomes	con crowed
Ruth Bates	becomes	truth bases
Rankin, Adrian	becomes	ranking airman
Jamie Holder	becomes	jammed holder
Stephen Parkinson	becomes	steepen partition
Andrew A. Adams	becomes	addresses a madam

The Guests

Guest of Honour : Gwyneth Jones

Gwyneth has become successful in several fields of writing including SF. She has written 12 novels for children (8 under the *nom de plume* of Ann Halam, the latest juvenile is *Dinosaur Junction*) as well as four for adults. Of her adult novels, *Divine Endurance* has seen five editions, *Kairos* was recently listed as one of the top 50 SF books in a BSFA journal and her latest book, *White Queen*, has just been shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award. She has also written short stories and articles for a wide variety of popular and critical journals (eg *Interzone*, Foundation) and some scripts for *The Telebugs*.

Colin Greenland

Unfortunately Colin fell ill very recently and is unable to get to the con. Perhaps third time lucky . . . ? Get well soon Colin.

Prof Tom Shippey

Tom Shippey is a Professor of English Literature at Leeds University and no newcomer to LUCONs. He is a Tolkien expert (don't forget the Tolkien Centenary this year!) and coincidently he was Colin's PhD supervisor. Last year he interviewed Colin without Colin even being there (a repeat this year perhaps?). He has an incisive wit and an inexhaustable supply of anecdotes.

Dave Hodges

Dave has compiled, with Douglas Adams' permission, an actual guide. The Guide is stored on computer (last count was 13MB) and is easily accessed for entries on everything. It features text, sound and graphics. The Guide is growing and you will be invited to contribute entries for it. There will be an auction of a rare printout of the Guide on Sunday, with proceeds going to charity. Dave himself works with birds of prey on secret missile bases (really!)

The Fight School

The clatter and chink of armour, the clash of swords and the cries of would-be heroes, hacking their way to fame and fortune, is an increasingly common sound in the shires of present day Britain.

The Playing of historical and fantasy Live Role Playing games has led to the revival of the ancient crafts of theswordsmith, the armourer and the teacher of swordsmanship. *The Fight School* was established in 1981 to provide training for those Live Role Players who wished to use authentic weapons.

One of the most important things about *The Fight School* is safety. They devoted themselves to developing a system which was safe to use, rather than the dangerous fighting system derived from stagecraft.

The Fight School are Dean Wayland (Senior Instructor), Mary Gentle (authoress) and Mike Gearing.

See The Fight School in action! Sunday 2pm

Charles Stross

Charles is our last minute volunteer to take the place of Colin Greenland. He has had some success as a science fiction writer so far, with stories in *Interzone*, etc. He invented the term "Technogoth" as a sub genre of Cyberpunk, but no one knows what he is talking about yet. He is celebrating because he just sold two novels.

Friday

7pm	**Round Robin Story**
8pm	**Panel :** Is a Warlike Nature an Advantage or a Disadvantage When Reaching For the Stars?
9pm	**Silly Game :** Return of the Son of the Obligatory Silly Game
10pm	**Panel :** Entertainments of the Future
11pm	Accomodation Allocation
11.15pm	Exeunt / Curry House

Lazertag Times

Saturday : 10am - 2pm
4pm - 7pm

Sunday : 10am - 12pm
3pm - 7pm

Video Times

Friday : 7pm - 11pm
Saturday : 11am - 11pm
Sunday : 10am - 11pm

Note : You may not crash in the videos because the building is closed at night. If you need crash space, goto the accomodation allocation.

Saturday

10am	Opening Ceremony
11am	**Panel** : Is Realism Necessary in Science Fiction Writing?
12pm	**Panel** : Can Computers Become as Advanced as Science Fiction Portrays?
1pm	**Turkey Reading IV** : Return of the Baboons
2pm	**Guest of Honour :** Gwyneth Jones Talks Back
3pm	
4pm	**Enterprise Debate**
5pm	**Panel** : Religion in Science Fiction and Fantasy
6pm	**Silly Game** : Space Battle
7pm	**Panel** : I Want to Live Forever
8pm	**Cabaret**
9pm	
10pm	
10.45pm	Accomodation Allocation
11pm	Exeunt

Sunday

10am	**Panel** : Superhero Comics Have No Role in Modern Fantasy Literature. / **NSSF Meeting**
11am	**Panel** : The Prisoner: Meaning or Masturbation?
12pm	**Guest** : Tom Shippey : Whatever Happened to the New Wave?
1pm	
2pm	**Panel** : The Amalgamated Space Theme Panel
3pm	**Panel** : Hot Water, Good Dentistry and Soft Lavatory Paper
4pm	**Guest** : Charles Stross Strutts His Stuff
5pm	**Talk** : A DIY Guide to Time Travel
6pm	**Panel** : Veils or Miniskirts?
7pm	**Panel** : If You Could Go Back in Time . . . ?
8pm	**Alien Cocktails III** **Silly Game** : Cluedo : The Final Frontier
9pm	Closing Ceremony
10pm	Accomodation Allocation
11pm	THE END

Lazertag

Lazertag is taking place on campus in the Roger Stevens Lecture Theatre Block., which must be the most hideously designed building in the country, with its labyrinthine stairs and levels which is distinctly reminiscent of Escher's "*Relativity*", "*Ascending*" or "*Descending*".

Tony Gill & Co., a.k.a. Dark Horizons from Harrogate, are the people running the games and through which we are offering the first set of two games free. Each set is 2x20 minutes long, one as "Monster" and one as "Player". The games are free for attending con members, but after your first free set of games, each set costs you £2.50.

To top all of this, there is a plot :

Six months ago, in August 2491, a company called Nas-Corp financed a raid on the field testing station of a rival company, Banordyne. An embryo was stolen, and the station was destroyed.

Today the embryo has developed into a particularly nasty looking creature - a face hugger - which is Nas-Corp's prize specimen. However, Banordyne are about to undertake a retaliatory strike against their rivals, and aim to destroy the specimen, together with the entire Nas-Corp R & D section.

The mercenaries recruited as the strike force (players) are to be given a bomb, with a ten minute timer, which must be placed next to the specimen. They are also given a tracer, which has been attuned to the specimen's genetic structure.

Credits

Programme book by Barry Traish. Prood readding done sparingly. Bits by Dean Wayland, Andrew Adams, Jamie Holder, Paul Cooper, Nesa Sivagnanam, Tony Gill. Thanks to other Mac users and a pox on Leeds University Computing Service.

About the Programme

Friday

7pm Round Robin Story : Adrian Rankin leads the first event, where you have to tell the story until the buzzer sounds, when . . .

8pm Panel : Is a Warlike Nature an Advantage or a Disadvantage When Reaching For the Stars? : Jon Crowe asks, "Is the Alien really the perfect being, or does Perry Rhodan, Galactic Peacelord, reign supreme?"

9pm Silly Game : Return of the Son of the Obligatory Silly Game : Steve Glover is keeping the rules of this one under his hat.

10pm Panel : Entertainments of the Future : What will we do for entertainment in the future? Will film, book, sport, etc survive in the computer age? With the continued development of virtual reality, is "better than life" a frightening possibility? With Ruth Bates.

11pm Accomodation Allocation : Do you have anywhere to sleep tonight? Can you offer someone a bit of floor or a sofa? If so, come along.

11.15pm Curry Time : As is traditional at LUCONs, the local curry places get put through their paces. Just a five minute walk.

Saturday

10am Opening Ceremony : Paul Cooper introduces the guests.

11am Panel : Is Realism Necessary in Science Fiction Writing? Cyberspace, Schrodinger's cat, hobbits, etc. The list of possibilities is endless. But how many of them actually face up to reality as we know it? Is realism really necessary in the writing of SF&F, or is turning loose your imagination totally the name of the game? With Nesa Sivagnanam.

12pm Panel : Can Computers Become as Advanced as SF Portrays? : Charles Stross and Gareth Rees debate what happens when, just as you are about to leave orbit, you see "ERRCODE 02374 : Syntax error."

1pm Turkey Reading IV : Return of the Baboons : I refuse to quote that stuff in my programme book (Ed.)

2pm Gwyneth Jones Talks Back : Gwyneth does a reading and you get to question her.

4pm Enterprise Debate : Stephen Parkinson chairs the balloon style debate in which you get to choose which member of the crew of the *Enterprise* will survive the dying ship.

5pm Panel : Religion in Science Fiction and Fantasy : Tara Dowling-Hussey asks why is religion portrayed in SF&F as either a sweeping cult (Dune) or merely a replay of Christian doctrine thinly disguised (Narnia)?

6pm Silly Game : Space Battle : A game for two teams of four based on SF trivia and corruscating, incandescent forces battling for the universe. Andrew Adams' rules are at the back of the programme book.

7pm : Panel : I Want to Live Forever : What are the problems of being immortal? When do you get bored? Why are immortals never shrivelled prunes. Helen Steele, Barry Traish and Andrew Adams (if he can finish *Space Battle*) discuss these questions and others.

8pm Cabaret : One of the highlights of the weekend is the Mini-cabaret. This year it will feature (at least) *Flashing Lightsabre 2, Dick Balrogg - Special Agent, The Obligatory K9 Sketch* and a piece (hopefully) made up by Simo as he is thrust out on stage without warning. Attend if you dare, perform if you are mad enough.

10.45pm Accomodation Allocation : Same as Friday.

11pm Exeunt : Go on, clear off and start a party!

Sunday

10am Panel : Superhero Comics Have No Role in Modern Fantasy Literature : Emmet Haverty-Stacke feels that although this question is often discussed at comics cons and meeting, that audience might be a little biased. perhaps you are not . . . ?

10am The NSSF Meeting : The National Student Science Fiction Association discusses it proposed charter with secretary Andrew Adams. He still thinks that you should buy him a drink. If you are a student you should come along and learn about what is happening at other universities. Have your say.

11am Panel : The Prisoner : Meaning or Masturbation? : Barry Traish asks if Patrick McGoohan really had anything behind the Prisoner, or were the questions never meant to have answers?

Guest : Prof. Tom Shippey : Whatever Happened to the New Wave? : What was the New Wave? Who was involved? Where are they now and who will start the next paradigm shift. Tom has all the answers.

2pm The Amalgamated Space Panel : Jon Crowe leads a discussion on the many inter-related issues involved in space exploration.

3pm Panel : Hot Water, Good Dentistry and Soft Lavatory Paper : The necessities of life - there are some things that we absolutely are unable to survive without. Are your absolute necessities existant in your world (whatever world you are currently inhabiting!)? Nesa asks again.

4pm Guest : Charles Stross Struts His Stuff : We surprise Charles by asking him to do a panel item with no preparation. Please don't spoil the surprise for him. Whatever he does, it is bound to be up the minute, possibly even some Technogoth!

5pm Talk : A DIY Guide to Time Travel : What you need, where you can go, what it will cost you and where you can buy the parts. Oh yes, and how hard it will be!

6pm Panel : Veils or Miniskirts? : Remember the sixties? Personally speaking, I wasn't even born (*writes Jamie Holder*). I'm told that they were an interesting experience. Have you ever wondered what's going to happen to society in the future? Will we see a return to the permissive society of the past or are we headed for another Victorian era? Come to think of it, this might be an interesting panel . . .

7pm Panel : If You Could Go Back in Time . . . ? : And change one event, what would it be? The burning of Rome? The Munich Putsch? Butterflies flapping their wings? Barry Traish speculates . . .

8pm Alien Cocktails III : Pan Galactic Gargle Blasters, Scotch Eggs, Mud Slides . . . you name it and we will have it. A mind blowing experience though survival is not guarenteed. Cocktails continue through the evening.

8pm Silly Game : Cluedo - The Final Frontier : Someone has committed a murder on board the Enterprise, and only Paul Cooper knows who. Can you work it out?

9pm Closing Ceremony : Paul says "Good Bye" and "Phew!"

10pm Accomodation Allocation : For all you late weekend party -dudes.

11pm THE END : Even the Union Building doesn't want us now!

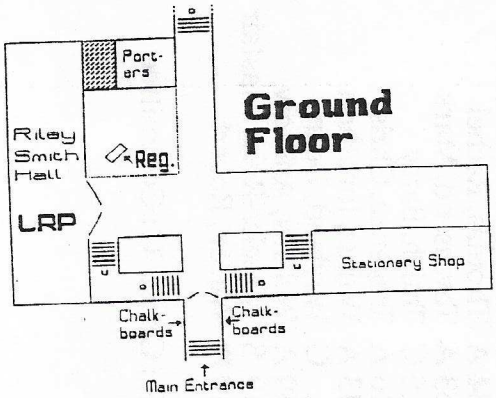
Other Events

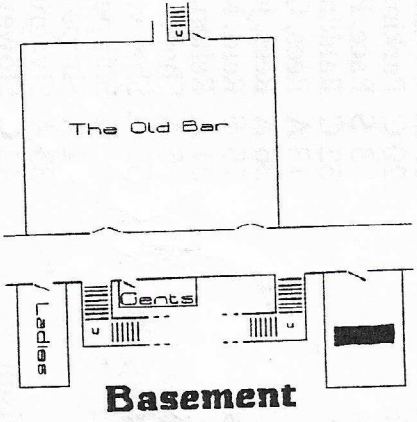
Saturday 5pm Champions Contest : An LRP event to determine who is the fiercest warrior in one to one combat. There will be a number of rounds and anyone can enter. Are you the best swordsman?

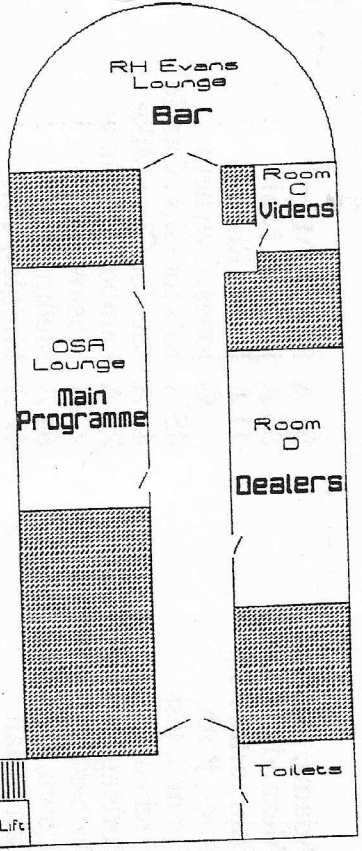
Sunday 10am Barroom Brawl : A mad free for all organised by the Adventurers' Guild. Dress in costume and come and beat hell out of your best friend. All welcome. The more the rougher!

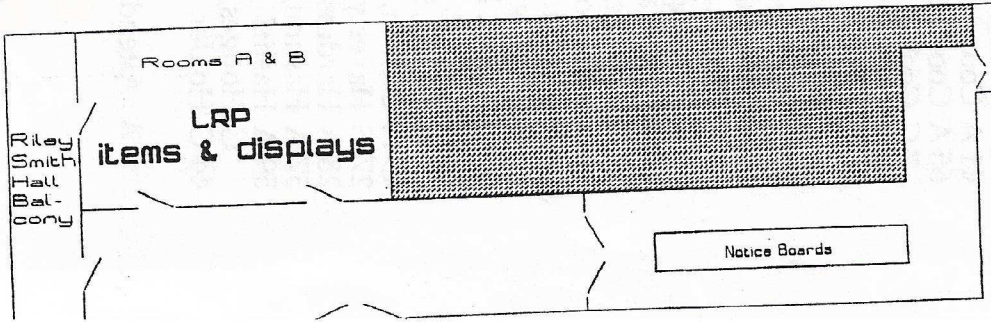
MAP OF THE UNION

Parts of the Union building depicted in approximate scale. If you stray outside these areas, you're on your own!









Membership List

1	A	Adams, Andrew A.
55	A	Alexander, Mike
62	A	Balmforth, Pete
19	C	Bates, Ruth
21	S	Bennett, Jess
61	A	Birchell, Mike
58	A	Borlenghi, Lara
38	A	Brooksby, Richard
60	A	Brown, Stephen
25	A	Cairns, Ian
56	A	Cooke, Dave
41	A	Cooper, Jenny
65	A	Cooper, Mark
7	C	Cooper, Paul
8	S	Crow, Oliver
14	A	Curry, Neil
48	A	Curtis, Paul
32	A	Daly, Frances
17	A	Daly, Julia
9	A	Davies, Andrew
63	A	Dowling-Hussey, Tara
23	A	Farr, Matt
39	A	Fleming, Jim
52	A	Fine, Colin
30	A	Freebairn, Alison
	G	Gearing, Mike
	G	Gentle, Mary
24	A	Girling, Dave
2	S	Glover, Steve
49	A	Griffith, David
27	S	Haverty-Stacke, Emmet
28	A	Hardcastle, Bridget
57	A	Hashmi, Mahnaz
59	A	Hashmi, Viquar
	G	Hodges, Dave
44	C	Holder, Jamie
51	A	Horrill, Mike
35	A	Jackson, Niall
11	A	James, Rhodri
	G	Jones, Gwyneth
45	A	Kits for Gits : Carole
46	A	Kits for Gits : Mike
26	A	Lambon, Matthew
22	A	Maslowski, Paul
64	A	Melling, David
47	A	Midgley, Carl
12	A	Miller, Rob
37	A	O'Hara, Bob
20	C	Parkinson, Stephen
3	S	Race, Phil
52	C	Rankin, Adrian
18	A	Rees, Gareth
36	A	Rees, John C.
15	S	Reid, Matthew
31	A	Relton, Peter
5	A	Shepherd, A.J. "Dop"
50	A	Sherwood, D.M.
	G	Shippey, Tom
4	A	Simpson, M.J. "Simo"
33	A	Sivagnanam, Nesa
42	C	Slowey, Martin
13	A	Steele, Helen
	G	Stross, Charles
34	A	Thomas, Rachel
53	A	Townsend, Mark
6	C	Traish, Barry
16	A	Tregenze, Chris
43	A	Walker, Jonathon
	G	Wayland, Dean
40	A	Webster, Andrew
29	S	Wheeler-Reid, Alastair
10	A	Wilson, Robert

A : Attending S : Supporting G : Guest C : Committee